



The President's Daily Brief

5 March 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

East Pakistani leader Mujib has intimated that he will soon declare what amounts to independence for the East. (Page 1)

In Turkey,

██████████ security forces seeking to track down the kidnaped US airmen have become involved in a clash with students. (Page 2)

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Egypt and Israel are showing wariness of each other's intentions as the cease-fire deadline approaches, but there are no indications that either is about to initiate hostilities. (Page 3)

The parliamentary chief of West Germany's opposition Christian Democrats appears to be bidding for some US support to strengthen his hand on controversial party issues. (Page 4)

Soviet

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PAKISTAN

East Pakistani leader Mujib has confided to a group of foreign correspondents that, at the mass rally scheduled for Sunday, he will call for the drafting of separate constitutions for East and West Pakistan, with discussions on the form of federation to follow.

Although such a procedure would appear on the surface to be less drastic than a unilateral declaration of independence, Mujib admitted to the correspondents that the plan would be equivalent to independence for East Pakistan. The proposal probably will be unacceptable to the West Pakistani - dominated government and military.

Violence has lessened somewhat in East Pakistan following Mujib's address to a rally on Wednesday afternoon. Although he castigated the government for firing on civilians and demanded that the troops return to their barracks, he also urged East Pakistanis to halt the looting and arson that had been going on since Tuesday. On the other hand, he urged East Pakistanis to disrupt communications, to barricade roads, to impede military movements, and to refuse to pay taxes.

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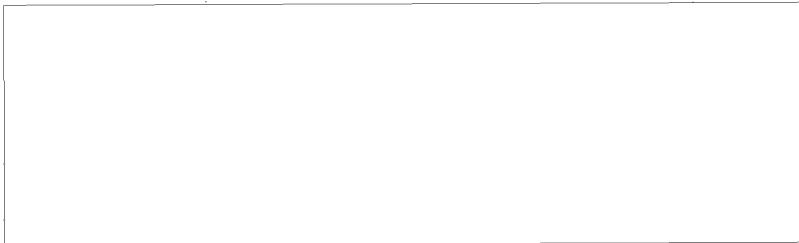
Before the disturbances began, about 20,000 troops were stationed in East Pakistan. One fifth of these, however, were Bengalis whose loyalties probably lie with their fellow East Pakistanis.

Pakistan's airlift and sea transport capacity is not adequate to handle the large numbers of troops we think would be required to contain a major uprising. The military, in any case, would not want to shift units away from the defense of West Pakistan's border with India. Despite these limitations, the Pakistani military profess confidence they have sufficient force to contain the situation so long as it remains short of a full-scale rebellion.

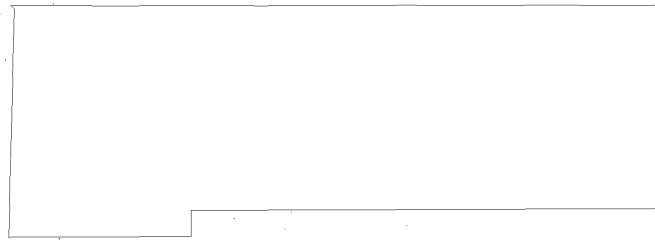
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TURKEY



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Turkish security officials, acting on information that the four US airmen kidnaped near Ankara were being held somewhere at the Middle East Technical University, have sealed off the entire campus area. Some 4,000-5,000 gendarmerie and police are searching the area today, and have clashed with students who are armed and barricaded in dormitories.

The Turkish Government has been broadcasting parts of the lengthy "manifesto" sent by the group responsible for the kidnapings, thereby meeting one of its demands. The manifesto is in effect a call to arms for a popular uprising and guerrilla warfare throughout Turkey. One of the abductors, who was apprehended soon after the incident, has identified the five kidnapers as members of the Turkish Revolutionary Youth Federation, the primary organization involved in the recent upsurge of terrorist action in various parts of Turkey. The kidnapers have threatened to execute the four airmen if their demands, including a ransom payment, are not met. The original deadline was extended and is currently set at 11:00 PM EST tonight.

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EGYPT-ISRAEL

As the cease-fire deadline approaches, the tone of Cairo's propaganda has been less strident than it was just prior to the previous expiration date of 5 February. The rhetoric has concentrated on political maneuvering rather than on military threats, with some emphasis on the responsibility of the US to prod Israel toward a more forthcoming attitude.

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[redacted] International efforts to gain a more positive commitment from the Israelis on withdrawal, together with appeals for continued military restraint, could provide Cairo with sufficient justification for continued reliance in the immediate future on political rather than military action. Sadat is expected to make his intentions public in a major speech prior to 7 March.

On the military side, both Egypt and Israel continue to be wary of the other's intentions. Each has stepped up reconnaissance flights along the canal and, with increasing frequency, is penetrating air-space over the other's positions. Although these overflights do not go undetected, no attempts to intercept them have been noted.

The only military preparations by both sides appear to involve contingency planning and alerting of forces. There are no indications, however, that either the Egyptians or the Israelis are mobilizing or redeploying forces to initiate hostilities.

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WEST GERMANY

Rainer Barzel, parliamentary chief of the opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU), has told a US Embassy officer he is facing increasing difficulty in holding his party to the position that ratification of the treaties with the USSR and Poland should be tied to the ability of the Brandt government and the Allies to obtain a "satisfactory" agreement on Berlin.

Barzel said he hopes to meet with President Nixon during a visit to the US next month. Barzel said such a meeting would strengthen his authority against those in the CDU who would set unrealistically high terms for a Berlin settlement in order to prevent ratification of the treaties and defeat Ostpolitik.

Barzel is no great proponent of Ostpolitik and has in fact criticized Brandt's policies openly on occasion, but his own political ambitions require him to stay in the middle of the road. A meeting with the President would boost Barzel's chances to succeed former chancellor Kiesinger as party chairman and chancellor-candidate.

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